

## Africa Weather Hazards Assessment



NOTE: Black hatched regions depict combined wheat, maize, sorghum, and millet crop zones which are active (sowing to harvest) during the current month. (from FAO)

1) Long-term hydrological and agricultural drought continues in and around the Sool Plateau region of northern Somalia.

2) Dryness continues in drought-affected areas of southeastern Ethiopia and western Somalia, though light showers continue to mitigate hydrological dryness in parts of southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya. Long-term deficits remain.

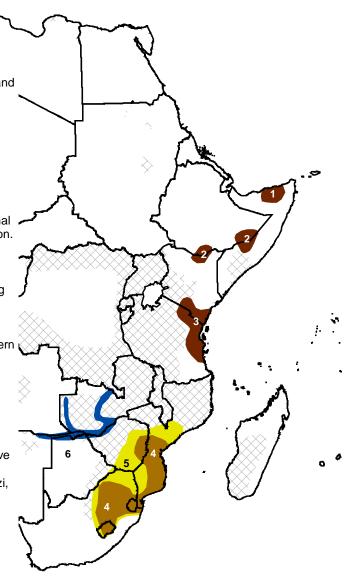
3) After a week of lighter rains during mid-February, widespread thunderstorms produced 50-125 mm of precipitation last week throughout much of eastern Tanzania. These heavier than normal rains continue to reduce multi-seasonal water deficits in the region.

4) Abnormal dryness again last week in much of central and southern Mozambique and eastern Zimbabwe contributes to large seasonal precipitation deficits. Little rain is expected during the next week. The situation has improved somewhat further to the southwest, as beneficial rains fell once again during the past week in parts of eastern South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Long term hydrological deficits remain throughout parts of southern Mozambique and eastern South Africa, including Swaziland.

5) The areas surrounding (4) are experiencing lesser seasonal deficits, though the region from southeastern Zimbabwe to southwestern Mozambique is quickly drying out. Little rainfall is expected in much of this area during the next week.

6) Heavy rains, with weekly totals exceeding 100 mm locally, have fallen during the past week in much of central and western Zambia. This includes the areas within the mid to upper Zambezi, and neighboring Okavango and Kafue River Basins, as flooding has been noted and river levels continue to rise. Additional locally heavy rainfall is expected during the next week.

7) A storm system swept into Morocco and northern Algeria last week, bringing much needed rainfall to much of the area. Local weekly accumulations exceeding 50 mm have undoubtedly increased moisture throughout the region, though substantial seasonal deficits remain.





Valid: February 26-March 3, 2004





